Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 299.92 crore. Central Share to tune of Rs. 179.73 crore has been released to the States so far. These projects cover 1098 water bodies with total original culturable command area of 1.72 lakh hectares. No ponds/reservoirs in the NCT of Delhi are covered under the Pilot Scheme.

River inter-linking Scheme

852. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the actual status of ambitious 'river inter-linking' scheme in the country particularly, Chambal-Kali sindh-Parvati Project;

(b) whether this scheme is lagging behind the target;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by Government to accelerate the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has prepared Feasibility Report of 16 links out of 30 identified links under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins/areas.

A Group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) consisting of other officers of CWC, NWDA and Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resources Department from concerned States has been constituted in June, 2002 to discuss with the States the issues for arriving at a consensus regarding sharing of surplus water and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). Five peninsular links have been identified as priority links for consensus building between the concerned States. The Group has held nine meetings on these links. The DPR for one priority link *viz.* Ken-Betwa has been taken up by NWDA after signing of a tripartite agreement between the Government of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on 25.08.2005. The States of MP and Rajasthan have also agreed in principle for the preparation of DPR of another priority link *viz.* Parbati-Kalisindhi-Chambal link.

The implementation of inter basin water transfer proposals depends on the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States.

Accelerated Irrigation Project in Rajasthan

853. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of grants given to Rajasthan for irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, project-wise and the achievement thereto, project-wise;

(b) whether some requests from State Government are pending with Centre; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken for the speedy disposal of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) So far, 10 irrigation projects of Rajasthan have received Central Assistance under AIBP amounting to Rs. 1695.4532 crore as Loan and Grants. The

irrigation potential created from these projects under AIBP up to March 2007 is 521.923 thousand ha. The project-wise details of grants released and irrigation potential created from those projects are given in the following Table:

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Grant provided till date (Rs. in crore)	Potential created under AIBP up to March, 2007 (thousand ha.)
1.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Project Stage-II	58.741	391.00
2.	Narmada Canal	184.996	32.63
3.	Chauli	5.738	8.963
4.	Mahi Bajaj Sagar	22.289	27.20
5.	Modernization of Gang Canal	36.262	52.92
	TOTAL:	308.026	512.713

(b) and (c) Proposals for release of grant in respect of Modernization of Gang Canal project and Narmada canal project have been received in the Ministry of Water Resources, but they are not in accordance with AIBP guidelines in force. The State Government has been informed of the shortcomings in the proposals.

Floods in North Bihar

†854. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a great loss of life and property due to heavy floods in North Bihar during last monsoon season caused by the rivers flowing from Nepal;

(b) the details of permanent solution to control this flood which occurs every year;

(c) the latest status of talks being held with Government of Nepal regarding flood control; and

(d) the permanent and temporary steps being taken by Government keeping in mind the horror of floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a)Yes, Sir. There was a great loss of life and property due to heavy floods in North Bihar during the last monsoon season caused by river flowing from Nepal. As per report of Ministry of Home Affairs a total damage of Rs. 3903.75 crore has been reported. 967 numbers of human lives and 988 cattle have been reported as lost in 22 districts of Bihar.

(b) Floods are natural phenomena for which no permanent solution can be ensured. However, impacts of floods can be mitigated by adopting structural measures (like construction of large storage dams, embankments, improvement of drainage) and no-structural measures (like flood forecasting, flood plain zoning, etc.).

(c) A Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) headed by Secretaries of Water Resources in India and Nepal has been set up to oversee the matters pertaining to Indo-Nepal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.